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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

FEB 0 5 2003 Docket No: 2094/1E285US1

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Kevin M. GORMAN, David R. PATTERSON,

Jeffrey M. LINNEN and Keming SONG

Serial No.: 09/494,332

Art Unit: 1655

Confirmation No.: 3281

Filed: January 28, 2000

Examiner: J. GOLDBERG

For:

OLIGONUCLEOTIDE PRIMERS FOR EFFICIENT MULTIPLEX DETECTION OF HEPATITIS C VIRUS (HCV) AND HUMAN IMMUNODEFICIENCY VIRUS (HIV) AND METHODS OF USE THEREOF

PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME

Assistant Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks **Box PATENT EXTENSION**Washington, DC 20231

SIR:

This is a petition under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 to extend the time period for responding to the Office Action dated July 3, 2003 in the above-captioned patent application. Applicants respectfully request that the time period for reply be extended for a period of <u>two</u> months, from <u>December 13, 2002</u> up to and including <u>February 13, 2003</u>.

410.00 GP

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(a), a check in the amount of \$410.00 is enclosed to cover the estimated extension fee pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(a). Please charge any deficiency in the required fee to our Deposit Account No. 04-0100.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: February 5, 2003

Samuel S. Woodley, Ph.D.

nuel S. Wood

(Reg. No. 43,287) **Agent for Applicants**

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